

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: July 10, 2000

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplemental Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-31)

TO: Mark Shaw  
Project Manager - KEWN-4

**Proposed Action:** Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Incentive, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD): An incentive program for landowners to sign up for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to install riparian buffers along salmon streams.

**Project No:** 2000-064-00

**Budget No:** F5620

**Watershed Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A. of the Watershed Management Program EIS):**

- 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant communities
- 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and other Pollutants
- 6.1 Deferred Grazing
- 6.4 Water Supply – Pipeline
- 6.7 Water Supply – Trough
- 6.8 Water Supply – Well
- 6.9 Water Supply – Spring Development
- 6.10 Access Fencing

**Location:** Various sites as yet unknown, making up approximately 20 miles of salmon bearing streams as identified by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), in Wallowa County, Oregon.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The goal of this project is to increase landowner participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and improve riparian conditions on salmonid streams through fencing and vegetation improvements within Wallowa County. With increased funding, cost share can be augmented with additional incentives increasing participation. Landowners taking part in the program must sign a contract with the federal government covering the enrollment of acreage in the CREP program. In return for the contract, USDA pays landowners an annual rental payment based on a 'soil types' calculation, and may also pay practice establishment costs, such as plant materials, weed control, fencing, water supply development, water gaps, livestock crossings for small streams and temporary irrigation systems or plastic mulch to insure establishment of trees and shrubs in arid areas. This project proposes a \$50,000 block grant which will make funds available as needed, eliminating the need to apply for grant funds for each contract.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the GRMWP planner and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A Species List (SP #1-4-99-346G- USFS) was used to determine listed species. This list was obtained by the USFS for the Hells Canyon Natural Resource Area (HCNR) and includes this project's area. Threatened or endangered species listed for the project area are Gray wolf, Lynx, Grizzly bear, Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River summer steelhead, Bull trout, Bald eagle, MacFarlanes's four o'clock and Ute ladies' -tresses.

Gray wolf, Grizzly bear and Lynx are not known to occur in the project area and would not be affected by proposed activities. Bald eagle can occur in the project area (wintering habitat) but would not be affected by activities during the spring and summer. MacFarlanes's four o'clock and Ute ladies' -tresses are not found in these habitats. Snake River spring chinook, summer steelhead, and Bull trout can occur in the streams but will not be affected by proposed fencing, planting or water developments.

The USDA CREP Program meets mandated protections under ESA. The NRCS has prepared a Biological Assessment for the CREP program and has received concurrence on the program by NMFS and USFWS. The NRCS is required to implement individual projects in accordance with CREP policy and guidelines.

Surveys, SHPO contact and mitigation activities will be conducted as appropriate when landowners apply to the program. NRCS will conduct the assessment for the presence of hazardous and toxic wastes, and will contact the affected governments, landowners and agencies as needed when site specific projects are developed. The Wallowa County Natural Resources Technical Committee and Wallowa SWCD Board of Directors will review site specific projects.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis find 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Patricia Smith

Patricia R. Smith

Environmental Project Manager – KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7/10/2000

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Project Proposal w/ Project Area Maps

cc:

B. Beraud – KECN-4

T. McKinney – KECN-4

P. Key – LC-7

P. Smith – KECN-4

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Cynthia Warnock, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District

Lyle Kuchenbecker, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program